NEWS NOTES

FUTURE MUSICIANS, INC.

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WINTER SEMESTER 1991

HONORS BANDS 1991

Welcome to the Honors Band Concerts! Some of you will be reading this as you sit in the audience in joyful anticipation of an exceptional concert. Those who are reading it at home or in your school office will be sorry you missed it! Honors Band weekend is January 26-27. This year introduced a new Honors Band, the Western New Jersey area. Chairpersons include Anne Demson--North, Kimberly Johnson--West, and Barbara Moore--South. In addition to the performance by the Honors Band students of such works as "Memory" from CATS, "Dixieland Parade," George Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" and the new FMI theme song "March to the Future," several additional groups are featured. The band from St. Virgil's School, Morris Plains, will perform in the Western concert, the band from Corpus Christi in Hasbrouck Heights will play in the North, and the Southern concert will feature their own Jazz Ensemble! Much hard work goes into these concerts on the part of the teachers, students and, of course, the traveling parents. The results should be a source of great pride to all.

CONCENTRATION!! Honors Band Rehearsal

FMI Alumni Are Active

Many of our FMI graduates have come to our attention during the past semester and we are very proud of their accomplishments. Katie Leeson graduated from **Corpus Christi** in Hasbrouck Heights, and was accepted to the Manhattan School of Music's Preparatory School this year. She was concertmistress of our 1990 All-State Band, and will take flute lessons and study theory, ear-training, and be a member of the orchestra at Manhattan.

Joyce DiSclafani is also a **Corpus Christi** graduate, now attending Holy Angels High School. She recently gave a workshop after school at Corpus Christi for keyboard students. Joyce played guitar in the FMI band and has studied piano since she was very young.

St. Catharine Interparochial School (Glen Rock) graduates are continuing to play and sing. Stephen Trynosky plays clarinet at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, and Doug Boxley is in the tenor sax section at Glen Rock High. He and Dan Egan are playing as alumni in the FMI Honors Band. Dan has played oboe for many parish church services, and is singing in every possible vocal ensemble at Glen Rock High. He will appear as Louis in "The King and I" at GRHS in February.

The band roster at Seton Hall Prep reads like an FMI alumni roster. We are very proud of all our graduates!

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New School, New Teachers

St. Mary's School in Pompton Lakes is the newest addition to our FMI family. Students were treated to an exciting demonstration assembly by the FMI supervisors and they clapped and cheered as if they were at a pep rally! Teacher Mrs. Anita Blake has kept that enthusiasm going with her large group of students, and principal Ms. Berlino is pleased with this new addition to **St. Mary's** curriculum.

Mrs. Pegeen Perry and Mr. Tony LaGruth have joined the FMI faculty, taking over schools in the Bergen County area. Pegeen is teaching both vocal and instrumental classes and, after the usual transitional turmoil, all of their students are settling in to great programs.

St. Thomas On the Road!

The bands from **St. Thomas the Apostle School** in Bloomfield traveled to **Our Lady of Sorrows** in South Orange on January 14th to play a concert for grades K-5. Both Cadet and Advanced Bands performed, and the five instrumental students at OLS joined them. It was a "post-Christmas" concert so, as the selections were announced, a tree was decorated with ornaments! A caravan of car pools carried the bands to South Orange, and mothers and students alike enjoyed the afternoon. OLS principal Miss Bisogno commented, "It was a very nice concert. The children were well-prepared and it was a nice after-Christmas treat!"

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Faculty Recital

FMI teacher/supervisor Martha Boughner gave a clarinet recital in November at St. James Church in Upper Montclair. "A little of everything" was on the program, including classical clarinet literature, a transcription of a well-known piano work, and a trio where Martha played Oboe and was joined by FMI teacher/supervisor Rita Berz on Flute and former faculty member Heather Rotunda on Clarinet. The program concluded with some Dixieland selections, with piano and 7th grade student drummer Christopher Macy. It was a good time!

Honors Bands to Perform at Meadowlands

All three Honors Bands will combine to perform a half-time concert on the basketball court at Brendan Byrne Arena on February 23 when the hapless NJ Nets take on the Philadelphia 76'ers. The band should be almost 150 strong and will sound truly professional. Some tickets are still available at discount prices from your local Honors Band students. Come and be part of this annual night of excitement!

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THEY'RE SAYING...

"Having the Future Musicians, Inc. involved in our school has served as an attraction to students who are actively interested in pursuing the ability to play a musical instrument.

The program here at SCIS has been very successful and the schol reaps the benefits of these young people. The band provides music for some of our paraliturgical services, holiday concerts, and even to providing the marching music for an all-school Halloween parade.

We are happy to have Future Musicians, Inc. as part of SCIS."

Sr. Mary Elizabeth, OP
St. Catharine Interparochial, Glen Rock

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"The Future Musicians Band Program is a great asset to **St. Augustine.** They become increasingly involved in school activities and enable many students' talents to come forth. Combined with our general music program, the band is well-coordinated by a dedicated competent teacher, Mrs. Berz, who has been with us now for several years."

Brother Dennis, S.C.
St. Augustine, Kendall Park

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"I like having a band in my school because the hills around Kinnelon are alive with music, and the band brings Joy to the world!"

Sr. Mary Judith, OP
Our Lady of the Magnificat, Kinnelon

Principals Make The Difference

Do you know what the greatest single factor in the success of the school band program? The school principal! (Such power!) The supportive principal can supersede changes of teacher, small enrollments (they won't stay small), and even occasional wrong notes. Our most successful bands are in schools where the principal is interested, encouraging, and proud of the band. What are some of the ways in which they help?

--They use the band whenever possible for assemblies, masses, graduations

--They praise the band, both at practice and in front of the school (or over the loudspeaker)

--They announce band members' accomplishments (e.g. Honors Band, State Band, awards)

--They encourage their faculty to support the band program, suggesting that no tests be given on band day, and discouraging negative comments about students leaving class for lessons

--They consider the band to be an integral part of their school, just like the basketball teams, Student Council, Forensics...and detention hall! (Ha! Gotcha!--were you really reading ?)

--They try not to schedule school activities during band time

Thank you, Principals, for your Support!

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Masses, Prayer Services, Parades

A number of students have added musical selections to schol liturgies and other events. The band at **St. Catharine Interparochial School**, Glen Rock, performed "March to the Future" and a spooky Halloween melody for the Halloween Parade. The band and director were in full costume, with Ronald Reagan playing first trumpet, and Nancy Reagan playing bass drum! The advanced junior high ensemble also played for prayer services at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our Lady of Fatima, Piscataway, and **St. Thomas** in Old Bridge both enjoyed student participation by musicians at their Thanksgiving liturgies.

AROUND THE SCHOOLS

St. Cassian/Upper Montclair's band has more than doubled in size since last year. Everyone is excited, especially principal Mrs. Campione and band director Miss Boughner. An advanced group of students played for their Thanksgiving Prayer Service for the first time and were warmly received by principal, faculty and students alike.....Beginning students at **St. Matthew**/Edison, **St. Augustine**/Kendall Park, and **Our Lady of Mt. Virgin**/ Middlesex are hard at work on practice races with Mrs. Berz.....**Reverend George Brown School**/Sparta, **St. Christopher**/Parsippany, **St. Mary**/Denville and **Sacred Heart**/Rockaway schools have had "Band Student Of The Month" contests underway with teacher Mrs. Kim Johnson. Winners so far were recognized at their Christmas Concerts.....**Aquinas Academy**/ Livingston saw their band play for the Thanksgiving liturgy, as well as at the vocal Christmas concert when they performed Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" while the 5th-8th graders processed in, singing. Their band concert was held after Christmas, unfortunately on the night when the war broke out in the Middle East. The students added "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Grant Us Peace) to their concert as a musical prayer for peace.....Recorder programs are on the rise throughout the schools as third graders try their hands at reading music and learning to play an instrument.....**St. Matthew**/Edison's advanced band performed for a pep assembly in November.....**St. Catharine**/Glen Rock and **Aquinas Academy**/Livingston once again played a Christmas concert at the invitation of Livingston Mall. "Jingle Bells Rocked" and "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" and a good time was had by all!!

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CONCENTRATION!!

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"Musical Training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."
Plato